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BRIEFING

21st century communications from the City of Bloomington

Volume 10, Number 4

August 2002

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"Bloom"ington

The Japanese Tree Lilac, shown here, became the official tree for Bloomington in the early 1970s. Proposed by a group of residents who studied the growth habits of several flowering trees, 140 Tree Lilacs were planted in residential gardens, businesses and parks. Thirty years later, Tree Lilacs' fragrant, creamy-white flowers can be seen blooming throughout the city in mid-June.

When Bloomington became a town in 1858, the landscape was mostly prairie and farmland with very few trees. The City has played an active role in creating an "urban forest" by encouraging commercial and industrial development landscaping and, in the 1950s, requiring that one tree be planted in every residential lot. Today our city boasts thousands of trees and one-third of its land area is parks and open space. The Japanese Tree Lilac is one of 27 trees the City encourages residents and developers to plant. For a list of suggested trees, visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords "suggested trees." ♦

Facilities Update

LOOKING WEST FROM THE FORK OF WEST 98TH STREET AND WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD



Meeting the energy code

Driving by the construction site at 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road you may notice the exterior changing from yellow to brown to pink as the work progresses. These insulation layers are a colorful demonstration of the new facility's energy efficiency. The layers are installed in order of application:

- ◆ **Yellow** - water resistant sheet rock.
- ◆ **Brown** - sprayed-on waterproofing called Procor.
- ◆ **Pink** - rigid insulation that adheres to the Procor.

Three more layers - plywood, 30-pound felt and rosin paper - will be added to provide structural support and give the copper shingles the ability to expand and contract under various weather conditions. ♦

Building materials reflect natural environment

The new Police/City Hall/Arts Center between 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road has taken shape now that foundation and steel work are nearly complete. Demolition of existing buildings is finished and grading for parking and pond has begun. Installation of the exterior finishes is the next step.

Reflecting nature

Natural materials - stone, brick, wood and copper - will clad the exterior to suggest a space with a natural character that will age gracefully. The design of the facility reflects the natural environment of the Minnesota River Valley and the value our residents place on parks and green space. On the east end of the site, the building will curve around a 1.5-acre pond designed to filter storm water runoff before it flows into Nine Mile Creek.

Copper

Approximately one-third of the building will be covered in copper - chosen for its durability, cost-effectiveness, workability and long history as a low-maintenance building material. The copper used for the new facility is coming from Revere Copper Products, Inc., founded by Paul Revere in 1801.

Accelerated aging process

The copper arrives from the factory coated with copper-chloride crystals to accelerate the aging process. The desired blue-green color that normally takes 15-30 years to achieve could occur within 6-12 months of installation depending upon moisture and temperature. The quickest color change occurs during warm and humid conditions. In addition to its physical beauty, the patina forms a natural protective layer that protects the copper from the elements.

Preparing the copper for installation

Bloomington-based Innovative Building Concepts, Inc. is fabricating and installing the copper. The fabricator shears each copper sheet into four sections that are 16 inches by 4 feet long. The edges of these sections are notched and bent to form shingles, which will be installed similarly to siding. It will take approximately two months to install nearly 7,000 copper shingles that will cover the upper portion of the building.

Description

The facility will house City and Police administrative functions, underground park-

ing for Police vehicles and an arts center including performing and visual arts space. The main customer service areas and Council Chambers are on the east side overlooking a landscaped area and pond. The facility will open to serve the public in early summer 2003.

For more information, call Clark Arneson at 952-563-8921 or e-mail carneson@ci.bloomington.mn.us. ♦



Copper-chloride crystals start out yellow-green in color. See above. The color changes to blue-green over 6 - 12 months as the copper chloride chemically combines with water from the atmosphere. See color sample at right.



City of Bloomington
2215 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington MN 55431-3096

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Mayor Gene Winstead

Special efforts are made to maintain and improve our transportation systems, but because of increasing demands, additional funds and alternative solutions are needed.

Public Works Director
Charles Honchell



Commuting to work

The 2000 Census showed that of the 47,327 workers age 16 and over who live in Bloomington, 39,061 or 82.5 percent drive alone. Only 4,174 or 8.8 percent carpool and 1,392 or 2.9 percent use public transportation. Residents working at home totalled 1,597 or 3.4 percent. The mean-time travel to work is 20 minutes. ♦

Historically, the key to Bloomington's development has been access to major transportation systems in the metropolitan area, including the airport and major highways. This attracts residents and businesses to our city, strengthening our tax base and making Bloomington a desirable place to live.

Increasing traffic

Traffic congestion on our major transportation routes is a growing concern. Currently, about 450,000 vehicles per day pass by the I-494 and I-35W interchange. Most Bloomington residents commuting to work are driving alone. See sidebar at left. The number and length of trips residents make have greatly increased over the years. Simply put, our transportation demands are surpassing our road improvements.

Need for funding

The primary source of funding for roadways is the gas tax and license tab fees. These fund the state roadways including I-35W, I-494, TH77 (Cedar Avenue) and Highway 169. They also fund major City streets, including Lyndale Avenue, 98th Street and 34th Avenue. However, fees have not been increased since 1988. Inflation is reducing the ability to maintain streets, let alone increase the capacity of the entire transportation network, although improvements continue. See above right.

Maximizing street life

The City continues to make improvements and extend the life of local streets. To maintain its 350 miles of streets, the City of Bloomington uses a Pavement Management Program. This 80-year plan identifies, inventories and tracks the condition of our streets. Data is collected from surveys of every City street and entered into the computerized program. Results are analyzed and a rating system determines what maintenance strategies will provide the most economical long-term benefit. The program has kept the number of streets that fall into the problem category under 10 percent.

Alternative solutions

The City is actively working with the Minnesota Legislature and congressional delegation to significantly increase the overall funding for transportation. However, road improvements alone don't solve congestion problems. We need to look at alternative solutions and select those that are most efficient, including light rail transit, commuter rail, improved bus service, telecommuting, E-commerce, improved bikeway systems and more transit routes. Whatever each of us can do to reduce



Project improvements currently under way

- 1 The Ring Route (American Boulevard) bridge over I-35W is scheduled for construction in late summer. Once complete, the route from East Bush Lake Road to 34th Avenue will be an effective alternative to I-494 for shorter local trips. Completion 2003.
- 2 The widening of I-494 has begun between Highway 100 and Highway 212. Improvements include at least one additional lane in each direction, a bus lane and new bridges at East and West Bush Lake Roads and Normandale Boulevard that will accommodate the widening of I-494 and traffic from surrounding roadways. Completion 2005.
- 3 The City is working with Hennepin County to improve congestion along Old Shakopee Road at the intersections of Normandale Boulevard (completion fall 2002), France Avenue (beginning in 2003) and Cedar Avenue (completion fall 2002).

traffic congestion – carpool, ride the bus, walk, bike or make off-peak trips – will help drive our transportation issues in the right direction. ♦

Traffic concerns from residents

In a survey conducted in 2000 by Leede Research of Minneapolis, both traffic law violations and traffic congestion ranked high when residents were asked which issues affected their neighborhoods and the entire metropolitan area. In response to local concerns, the Police Department initiated a traffic safety program designed to increase driver awareness. Enforcement efforts include the use of a “speed trailer” and placement of traffic safety signs. ♦



Bloomington City Council

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Photographs of elected officials are presented by the City of Bloomington for informational purposes only.

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Visit our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us.

The Briefing, a bimonthly newsletter published by the municipal government organization of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota, is mailed to Bloomington residents and businesses. Direct comments or suggestions to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, City of Bloomington, 2215 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3096; phone 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; e-mail dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us. If you require Braille, larger print or computer disk, contact Diann Kirby, 952-563-8818.

The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. • The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 2215 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3096; phone: 952-563-8700; TTY: 952-563-8740.

Around the City

Open house celebrates new Public Works facility



Public Works celebrated the opening of its new facility at 98th Street and James Avenue with an open house in June. Almost 200 people attended the event that included presentations, vehicle rides and tours of the facility.

More storage, improved service

Approximately 71,000 square feet of vehicle equipment storage were built at the James Avenue site. A 2,100

square foot repair garage was added, along with 15,240 square feet of new offices. Existing offices were remodeled. The additional space allows for the consolidation of Public Works staff, providing more efficient communication, coordination



and service to the community.

For more information or for a tour of the new facility, call 952-563-4581. ♦

Fireworks ordinance approved

The Bloomington City Council has adopted an ordinance relating to the sale of permitted consumer fireworks in response to the new state law legalizing non-explosive and non-aerial fireworks. The ordinance requires that individuals who intend to sell fireworks must obtain a current license and receive prior written approval by the City's Fire Prevention Division. In addition,

the ordinance prohibits the sale of fireworks from a temporary place of business such as a vehicle, tent or roadside stand.

Fireworks restricted

Although certain fireworks are now legal in Minnesota, the use of fireworks is restricted on public property including City parks and facilities, streets and schools. New signs will be posted at most public

and some private properties regarding fireworks; violators will be subject to misdemeanor penalties.

The fireworks ordinance can be found on the City of Bloomington's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword "fireworks." For more information, contact the Fire Marshal's office at 952-563-8933. ♦

Smith Park grand opening held

To celebrate the renovation of Smith Park, 8155 Park Avenue South, a grand opening was held in June. Present for the festivities were Mayor Gene Winstead, Councilmem-

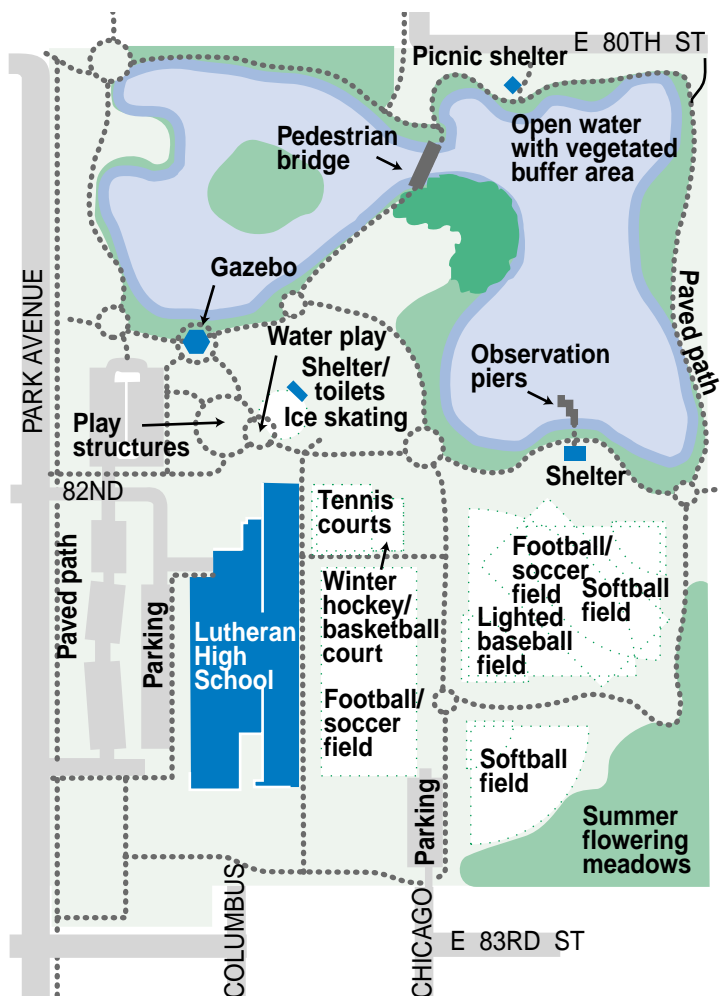
ber Vern Wilcox, City staff and Bloomington residents. Highlights included a presentation on the project's history, a proclamation by the Mayor and a ribbon cutting ceremony.



Smith Park's grand opening activities included a presentation by the Department of Natural Resources MinnAqua Fishing Program, a magic show, face painting and fish printing.

Improvements

In 1999, the park's renovation began by dredging the pond to improve water quality and expanding it to accommodate storm water. Paved and lighted trails were also added. The 25-acre park features two tennis courts (still under construction), a basketball court, a large gazebo, field lighting, ballfield irrigation, a picnic shelter and a pedestrian bridge crossing Smith Pond. See map at left. Additional park amenities are planned for the future. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877. ♦



Primary Election

The State Primary Election will be Tuesday, September 10. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

For more information or to request an absentee ballot, call Voter Registration at 952-563-8729 or visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword "voting." ♦

Staff News

Chief financial officer takes on new career

Former Bloomington Chief Financial Officer Terri Heaton resigned in May. After fifteen years of service, she accepted a position with Springsted, a financial advisor to the public sector. During Heaton's five years as chief financial officer, the City achieved many significant accomplishments including the Aaa/AAA bond rating upgrades with Moody's and Standard and Poor's. Under Heaton's leadership, the City continued to receive the Certificate of Recognition for Financial Reporting that it has earned for 31 consecutive years from the Government Finance Officers' Association. Heaton also developed a financial plan of more than \$75 million for capital facilities and was an active participant in the land swap that facilitated the Mall of America's next phase. A search for Heaton's successor is currently underway.



Police Chief Willow retires

Former Bloomington Police Chief Roger Willow retired in May with a 33-year career in law enforcement. Prior to becoming Bloomington's police chief in 1998, Willow served as chief of police in Apple Valley. He also spent 25 years with the Minneapolis Police Department where he rose to the rank of deputy chief. In his almost four years of service with the City of Bloomington, Willow enhanced the Police Department's ability to provide quality service to citizens, including the construction of the South Metro Public Safety Training Facility and the opening of the Police substation at the Mall of America. The City is in the process of searching for Willow's successor. ♦



Are you an ARCHITECT?
Interested in URBAN DESIGN?
Are you a BLOOMINGTON RESIDENT?

Volunteers needed

As part of the Zoning Ordinance Update Project, the City of Bloomington is seeking volunteers to serve on an urban design focus group that will advise the City on zoning-related design issues.

If interested, call Senior Planner Bob Hawbaker at 952-563-8922 or Planner Glen Markegard at 952-563-8923. ♦

Well done! Water Treatment Plant expansion nears completion



Expansion of the City's Sam H. Hobbs Water Treatment Plant at 9300 Poplar Bridge Road is nearing completion. When finished, the two-year project will double the plant's groundwater treatment capacity.

Modifications

Now that work is substantially complete, the plant is producing water at its full capacity of 14 million gallons per day. See sidebar. The added capacity will allow the City to meet the base residential and commercial potable water needs of the communi-

ty. Other modifications include two new deep wells, expanded laboratory facilities, enhanced security features and standby power generation.

Purchase agreement

Bloomington has a contractual agreement with the City of Minneapolis to purchase a minimum of two million gallons of water per day, with a maximum of 30 million gallons per day. The purchased water augments Bloomington's own treated water supply. After factoring in the cost of the plant expansion, producing water contin-

William Lloyd Analytical Laboratory

During the Water Treatment Plant expansion, the on-site analytical laboratory more than doubled in size to keep pace with increasing demand. Equipment purchases upgraded the lab to a state-of-the-art water testing facility. With more space available, the Tri-City Laboratory (a contract laboratory jointly funded by Bloomington, Edina and St. Louis Park) is now housed in Bloomington and provides microbiological testing for cities in the metropolitan area. For a small fee, the laboratory will also test individual water samples. For more information, call 952-563-4905.



Water softening process

Two new solids contact basins hold a total of one million gallons of water. At full capacity, the plant will process 14 million gallons per day. To soften water, quicklime (processed limestone) is added to the basins and interacts with calcium and magnesium (the main components of hardness in water) to form insoluble particles. The particles settle to the bottom and are removed.

Our growing water demand

Bloomington residents and businesses used 4.6 billion gallons of water in 2001 - 12.6 million gallons per day. Over the next 20 years, our average demand is expected to grow to the capacity of the expanded plant.



Bloomington water is put to the test

In a blind taste test conducted at the Public Works' open house, see page 3, City of Bloomington water was compared glass-to-glass with bottled designer water. By a ratio of

more than 2-to-1, City water was selected as having the better taste. Considering that the price of one bottle of designer water equals 5,376 equivalent-sized bottles of City water, Bloomington citizens are indeed receiving quality water at a bargain price. ♦

Keeping sewer lines in the clear

The City of Bloomington has an aggressive sewer maintenance program. To ensure proper disposal of sewage once it reaches the City's main lines, approximately 343 miles, or 96 percent, of sanitary main lines were inspected and cleaned last year. In addition, 29 miles of underground sewer infrastructure were explored using a video camera. These pictures help the Utilities Division evaluate the effectiveness of their maintenance and gain information regarding the physical condition of the system.

Proactive maintenance

Due to this active maintenance program, the City encountered only 13 sewer main backups in 2001. This is

a very small proportion of the approximately 25,000 service connections.

Improper disposal

"The most common cause of backups is root intrusion from nearby trees. Other causes are improper disposal of household items such as paper towels, disposable diapers and cooking grease," said Randy Poore, Utility Supervisor. Poore also emphasized that garbage disposals should not be used as garbage can replacements.

Prevent backups

Food debris such as fruit and vegetable peelings are notorious for creating slow-draining kitchen sinks. As these items move through the service lines and into the

City's main lines, they create blockages resulting in sewer backups into homes and businesses. The property owner is responsible for cleaning, maintaining or repairing individual service connections to the main lines.

If you experience a sewer backup, contact the Utilities Division at 952-563-4910. The City will check the sanitary sewer main line in the street at no charge.

For more information

To learn more about Bloomington's sanitary sewer system disposal, refer to www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords "sanitary sewer," or call Terry Neuman or Randy Poore at 952-563-8777. ♦

Watering down myths

Here are a few ideas about water that experts say are all wet:

Myth: We have less water today than we did 100 years ago.

Fact: There is the same amount of water on earth today as there was 100 years ago. However, because our demands on water continue to grow but our supply doesn't, we need to protect our water resources more than ever.

Myth: There are more pollutants in drinking water today than there were 25 years ago.

Fact: Scientists think not. Unlike 25 years ago, we now have sophisticated testing instruments that enable us to know more about our water. With this knowledge, the drinking water community is taking steps to treat what's in our water, to curb the flow of pollution and keep our water safe and wholesome.

Myth: Bottled water is safer than tap water.

Fact: The safety of bottled and tap water depends on the source. Monitoring and source protection, and treatment and testing ultimately determine the quality of the finished product. In the U.S., tap water is monitored and tested rigorously.

Myth: Using a home water-treatment device will make tap water safer and healthier.

Fact: Filters may change the taste, smell or appearance of tap water, but may not necessarily make the water safer to drink. All home treatment devices require regular maintenance, or water quality problems could result. ♦

Source: American Water Works Association

Tap into water conservation

Water is a precious natural resource. Follow these tips to reduce your water use and protect our water bodies from contamination.

Conserve

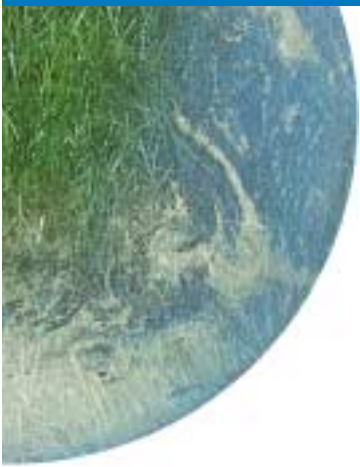
- ◆ Use low-flow fixtures in the kitchen and bathroom; repair leaky faucets.
- ◆ Run only a fully loaded dishwasher or washing machine.
- ◆ Turn water off while brushing your teeth and washing dishes.
- ◆ Water your lawn in early morning or evening to avoid excess evaporation; avoid watering the sidewalk or street.
- ◆ Mulch around trees and plants to help retain water.



Preserve

- ◆ Don't litter rivers or lakes; protect the habitat for fish and other wildlife.
- ◆ Clean up pet waste to prevent groundwater contamination.
- ◆ Save our lakes and streams; use phosphate-free detergents and environmentally friendly lawn care products.

- ◆ Don't pour toxic chemicals down the drain.
 - ◆ Dispose of used motor oil properly. One quart of motor oil can contaminate more than 250,000 gallons of water.
- For more tips visit our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords "water conservation." ♦



Down to earth

Maintaining a beautiful Bloomington from the ground up

One aspect of a healthy community is working together to maintain beautiful surroundings while being conscious of how we are affecting our environment. Last spring and summer, the Citywide Curbside Cleanup was a sweeping success – almost 80 percent of Bloomington residents participated! Fall is now fast approaching and it’s the best time to maintain your yard. Care for your lawn and garden the environmentally friendly way and protect our children, water resources, pets and wildlife.

Recycling is easier than ever!
Did you know that recyclable materials, including cans, plastics and glass, could all be mixed together? Recyclables picked up by the hauler are taken to the recycling center and sorted mechanically. Please remember to REMOVE ALL LIDS AND CAPS. ♦

Help reduce Cleanup costs: Recycle and reuse

Congratulations! Residents disposed of 2,098 tons of unwanted household junk through the Citywide Curbside Cleanup last spring and summer. This popular program keeps Bloomington looking good. However, each year the program cost has grown. The 2002 Cleanup costs will exceed \$400,000. The City is trying to contain costs. This year, large scrap metal items were picked up separately and recycled, eliminating the disposal charge at the incinerator. Residents can help keep costs down by: **Reporting illegal dumping.** The Cleanup program is for Bloomington residents only and is paid through your utility bill. Please do not encourage others who do not live in the city to drop off junk. To report illegal dumping, call the Police Department at 952-563-4900.

Reusing. Household items set out for pick up get hauled to the incinerator. Could others benefit from these items? Why not take reusable items to a local charity? Call ahead to find out what is accepted. Some organizations will even haul it away for free! Donate throughout the year to prevent a buildup of junk. A great way to get paid to recycle unwanted items is to have a garage sale. Each year the City sponsors a Citywide Garage Sale that is held in conjunction with the Cleanup.

Limiting brush. Do not save large amounts of brush for the Cleanup. The City encourages residents to use their regular trash hauler to dispose of brush or take brush to the South Hennepin Problem Waste Facility at 1400 West 96th Street. **Separating materials.** When putting junk at the curb, separate the items into four categories: scrap metal, appliances, brush and household junk. This reduces labor-sorting costs incurred by haulers during pick up. *See bottom right photo.*

Identifying hazardous materials. Consumer electronics such as TVs, computers, stereos and VCRs are considered problem materials and cannot be picked up during the Curbside Cleanup or disposed in the regular trash. If the electronic items work, consider donating them to charity. If not, take them to the South Hennepin Problem Waste Facility at 1400 West 96th Street so that they can be safely recycled. There is no drop off charge for electronics.

Reducing consumption. Take an active role in caring for our environment. Bloomington residents throw away 212,000 pounds of trash every day. More than 50,000 pounds of this is now recycled. However, we can do more to reduce the amount of garbage we create. Recycling is just one way to save resources and energy. Reducing our consumption is another. Buy higher quality items that are durable and can be repaired, or buy used items or rent whenever possible. Thinking about how you purchase items will save you money and protect our environment by creating less waste. For more information, call the City’s Solid Waste Section at 952-563-8750. ♦

For a healthy lawn, act naturally

Protect your family by caring for your lawn naturally. Children are especially vulnerable to the toxic chemicals we use to rid our lawns of weeds and pests. The following tips reduce the need for chemical use and provide for a healthy, naturally green lawn. ♦ **Mow less.** Keep grass length at three inches to allow roots to grow deeper, requiring less water. Longer grass makes it difficult for weeds to establish themselves. ♦ **Don’t bag up grass clippings.** On the lawn they provide a natural fertilizer. ♦ **Use organic and phosphorus-free fertilizer** to keep your lawn healthy. *See below.* ♦ **Water deeply but infrequently.** Grass grows better when allowed to dry out. ♦ **Pull out or spot-treat weeds** instead of applying weed killer to the entire lawn. ♦



Ordinance restricts use of phosphorus

To improve the quality of water bodies in Minnesota, the State Legislature passed S.F. No. 155, a bill restricting use of fertilizers containing phosphorus. In response to the bill and to better the environment, the City Council passed an ordinance restricting the application of fertilizer containing phosphorus to turf, buffer zones around water bodies, or to sidewalks or driveways. Exceptions include: ♦ Lawns that need phosphorus as demonstrated by a soil test. ♦ New turf during its first growing season. ♦ Golf courses.

Bloomington stores are required to sell phosphorus-free fertilizer if they sell fertilizer containing phosphorus. The ordinance is effective July 31, 2002. For information, call Scott Anderson at 952-563-4867. ♦

Pristine lakes and streams

Phosphorus from fertilizers runs off lawns and ends up in our wetlands, causing significant algae and weed growth. Excess weeds decrease the water quality for plants and wildlife as well as for recreational use. Protect our water resources by reducing phosphorus levels: ♦ **Sweep grass clippings and leaves back onto the lawn.** Keep them out of the streets and storm sewers. ♦ **Avoid sprinkling fertilizer on sidewalks, driveways and streets** where it can wash directly into the storm sewer. ♦ **Use phosphorus-free fertilizer.** The middle number on a bag of fertilizer should be zero. Bloomington lawns contain excessive amounts of phosphorus so applying a fertilizer with additional phosphorus is unnecessary. ♦

Would you would like this free sign for your yard? Call the Solid Waste Section at 952-563-8751.



2002 Curbside Cleanup results

Participation in the Curbside Cleanup was a record 80 percent last spring. Residents disposed of 2,098 tons of household items, 68 tons of scrap metal, 486 yards of brush and 3,490 appliances.

Future dates		2003
Location	Regular trash day is:	Curbside pickup is SATURDAY:
West of Normandale	Friday	April 26
France to Normandale	Thursday	May 3
Penn to France	Wednesday	May 17
Portland to Penn	Tuesday	June 7
East of Portland	Monday	June 14



What a great prep job! This resident really prepared for the Cleanup – piles were neatly stacked and the scrap metal was separated. This prep allowed haulers to make quick work of these piles.

17th Annual Job Success Fair for Individuals with Disabilities

The 17th Annual Job Success Fair for Individuals with Disabilities will be held at the Ramada Inn Hotel in Bloomington on Wednesday, October 9, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. The fair provides people with disabilities the opportunity to meet potential employers, learn about job requirements and obtain information about job placement and training programs. For information, call the Human Services Division at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

Businesses interested in a booth or sponsorship at the Job Success Fair should call Sean O'Neil, Human Services Program Coordinator, at 952-563-8741 or 952-563-8740 TTY. Booth registrations are due by Wednesday, September 25. ♦



Welcome to Creekside

The following activities take place at the City of Bloomington's Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South.

Computer classes for older adults

Computer classes tailored to the older learner are available at Creekside Community Center. Costs vary with the length of the class. Subjects include:

- ◆ Computers for Absolute Beginners.
- ◆ Introduction to Personal Computers.
- ◆ Introduction to E-mail.
- ◆ Internet Basics.
- ◆ Greeting Cards and More.
- ◆ Windows Basics.
- ◆ Word Processing Basics.
- ◆ Higher-level Word Processing.

Lab time is available to surf the Internet, practice computer skills or work on individual projects. Open Friday afternoons, the computer lab is managed by trained volunteers.

For more information, pick up a brochure at Creekside or call 952-563-4948; 952-563-4957 V/TTY. ♦

Get to know Creekside

Persons 55 and older are invited to "Get Acquainted with Creekside" at 10 a.m. the first Wednesday of every month. Tour the facility, enjoy a cup of coffee and learn about the Human Services Division's Senior Program.

Programs, presentations and more

Senior groups include card clubs, arts and crafts, fitness, book club, billiards, woodshop and lapidary. Also available are local trips, food programs, support groups, guest speaker presentations and volunteer opportunities. For more information, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY. ♦

Life is Like a Valued Patchwork

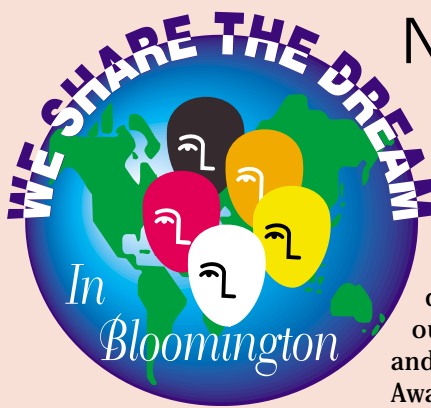
Bloomington Human Services introduces another exciting season of Life is Like a Valued Patchwork. The monthly program offers learning opportunities and a continental breakfast. Programs are held at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue S., from 9:15 – 10:30 a.m. To register, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY. Need a ride? Call 952-563-4948.

Wednesday, September 25 – Hearing Loss

While experts estimate more than 9 million Americans over age 65 suffer from hearing loss, the National Council on Aging says that only 40 percent use hearing aids. Sponsored by the Hearing Center in conjunction with the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic in Edina, this free program addresses hearing loss openly and clearly. Audiologist Jon Schee and Nurse Practitioner Lori Walsh will discuss treatment options and answer questions. Attendees will receive a certificate for a free hearing screening.

For information on programs, call the Human Services Information Line at 952-563-4957 or visit our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords "patchwork program." ♦

Community News



Nominations sought for human rights award

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission is seeking nominations for the Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award. The Commission will honor an organization (business, volunteer or faith-based group) that has demonstrated leadership in promoting human rights in our city. The award recipient will be publicly recognized and receive a plaque. The deadline for Omar Bonderud Award nominations is September 20. To receive a nominee application, call Bev Thompson at 952-563-8733; 952-563-8740 TTY or visit our Web site www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword "bonderud." ♦



Bloomington United for Youth

Promise Fellow to support youth initiative

Bloomington United for Youth (BUY), the community-wide initiative promoting healthy youth development, now has a Promise Fellow on its team. Vicki Hackett, a Bloomington native with a background in youth development, will coordinate and create community youth initiatives. BUY received a grant to fund the full-time position.

Main goals

Three main goals for the Promise Fellow are:

- ◆ Promoting positive youth involvement.

- ◆ Connecting youth and adults through program/information sharing.

- ◆ Training youth and adults to work with each other.

New projects

To accomplish these goals, BUY has several new projects that include:

- ◆ *Tomorrow's Voices Today* – a cable TV show by and for youth and the community.

- ◆ BUY Web site – www.bloomingtonyouth.org – a source to find resources and connect with what's happening in the youth community.

- ◆ Future training – to teach youth and adults how to work with each other.

Become a partner

BUY is developing a network of partners dedicated to incorporating youth development into their organizations. Benefits to youth include recognition and promotion of work, networking, training, referrals and volunteer service connections. For more information or to become a partner, call Vicki Hackett at 952-563-4918. ♦

Bloomington Community Foundation issues grants

The Bloomington Community Foundation and the Grants Committee has announced grants to the following programs that support Bloomington youth and families in need.

Cornerstone – rebuilds lives and restores hope for victims of abuse.

VEAP – a volunteer assistance program that serves

low-income, elderly and disabled residents in Bloomington, Edina, Richfield and a portion of south Minneapolis.

Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota – supports Bloomington children who suffer from a terminal illness.

Tree Trust – provides meaningful work experience in the park system for youth with special needs.

Viking Council Juvenile Diversion Program – offers youth with minor offenses a positive alternative to juvenile court.

For more information, call Bloomington Community Foundation Chair Gil Williams at 952-703-5656. ♦

DisAbility awareness programs available

DisAbilities and Abilities Awareness programs are available for youth groups and Bloomington children from pre-school to high school. The programs help children develop an appreciation for the uniqueness of individuals'

abilities, learning styles and interests. Focus is on "visible" disabilities related to vision, hearing or mobility and "less visible" disabilities such as specific learning disabilities, emotional or behavioral disorders, or autism. Students

learn how they can help individuals with disabilities in their family, school and community. For more information, call Human Services Program Coordinator Denise Royer at 952-563-4953, 952-563-4957 V/TTY. ♦

Parent workshop looks at media's influence

Learn how television, movies and the Internet affect youth and what parents can do to control the media's influence. Eileen McCarthy-Harness, from the *National Institute on Media and the Family*, will present a parent empowerment workshop on Tuesday, October 1, from 7 – 8:30 p.m. at

Jefferson High School, 4001 W. 102nd Street.

Held throughout the school year, free Parent Empowerment workshops help parents of elementary, middle and high school students with issues they might be facing with their children. Parents gain support and insight from other parents, as well as practical informa-

tion from featured speakers. For more information, call Eileen O'Connell, Bloomington Public Health at 952-563-4964.

Workshops are sponsored by Bloomington Public Health, Bloomington Public Schools and Tri-City Partners for Healthy Youth and Communities. ♦

PARKS, RECREATION & ARTS UPDATE

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

To every individual and corporate sponsor of Summer Fete



Corporate sponsors

Al's Vacuum and
Janitorial Supply
Andy's Tap
Cedar Creek Oil & Gas Co.
Delegard Tool Co.
Feldmann Imports

Hanson, Jergenson,
Nergaard & Co.
Health and Happiness
Knights of Columbus
Kraus-Anderson, Inc.
Micron Molding
Motorwerks BMW
Plekkenpol Builders, Inc.
Presbyterian Homes
Radisson Hotel South
Raindance Sprinkler Systems
Richfield/Bloomington
Credit Union
Saturn of Bloomington
Technical Supply
The Toro Foundation
Time Warner Cable
United Properties
Valley West
Chiropractic Clinic
VFW Post 1296
Wal-Mart
Walser

Walser Toyota
Xcel Energy
Ziegler, Inc.

SPECIAL THANKS to business providing prizes for Arts in the Parks events this summer!

Andy's Tap
Carmela Candelas
Famous Dave's
Kincaid's
Minnesota Twins
Baseball Club
Minnesota Vikings
Panda Restaurant Group
Papa Murphy's
Skateville
St. Paul Saints
The Basic Brown
Bear Factory
Tucci Benucc
Underwater Adventures ♦

Adult Sports

Fall Tennis Lessons

When: Session I: Sept. 9 - Oct. 18.
Session II: Oct. 21 - Nov. 29.
Times: Call Parks and Rec for details.
Where: 98th Street Northwest Athletic Club, 1001 W. 98th St.
Cost: \$49.50.

Women's and Co-Rec Volleyball

Leagues will form in September, with play starting on Monday, October 14. Cost is \$392 refereed and \$248 recreational. Sign up deadline is Friday, September 13. For additional information, call Parks and Recreation. ♦

AR&LE Adaptive Recreation & Learning Exchange

AR&LE provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities to participate in recreational, social, and educational programs. These opportunities are for people with varied ability levels in specially designed programs that meet their needs. A detailed quarterly brochure is available.

Adult activities

Happenings

Staff to participant ratio - 1:10

Happenings, a social and recreational program, offers field trips to events and activities, in-house parties, dances and a chance to be with friends. Members take part in the group with little guidance, are responsible for their own safety and make decisions regarding interests. Members call in their own reservations and handle money. Participants usually work in a competitive work setting and live, or could live, independently.

Who: Ages 18 - 29.
When: Twice a month, varied days and times. Schedule will be mailed.
Where: Various community locations.
Cost: Per quarter - \$15 (resident); \$20 (non-resident). Field trips/special events extra.
Register: Call Parks and Recreation.

Child and youth activities

Big Ten Bowling League

Staff to participant ratio - 1:10

The league gives teens of all abilities an opportunity to practice skills, socialize and have fun.

Who: Youth, 14 - 22 years old.
When: Saturdays, September 21 - November 23.
Where: Brunswick Eden Prairie Lanes, 12200 Singletree Lane.
Cost: \$28 (resident); \$33 (non-resident).

Fall Travel Club

Staff to participant ratio - 1:10

In this inclusive social and recreational program, participants learn social and activity skills while participating in events and in-house activities. NEW: Travel Club will meet twice a month!

Who: Children, ages 7 - 12, of all ability levels.
When: Twice a month, varied days and times. Schedule will be mailed.
Where: Various locations.
Cost: \$20 (resident); \$28 (non-resident). Field trips/special events extra. ♦

Youth Hockey

Jefferson and Kennedy Booster Clubs will hold youth hockey registration for Mites through Junior Gold (boys and girls, ages 5 - 18) at the Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 W. 98th St.

Registration
Jefferson Aug. 19, 27 and Sept. 4 6 - 8 p.m.
For information, call Roger Hovey at 952-831-0053.
Kennedy Aug. 28 and Sept. 5 7 - 9 p.m.
Sept. 7 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
For information, call Tom Dupont at 952-881-8581.

Bloomington Athletic Association (BAA)

BAA hockey registration will be held in early September. Call the info line at 952-888-0807 or visit www.baaonline.org. ♦

River Rendezvous

... A step back in time

When: Saturday, September 21, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Where: Pond-Dakota Mission Park, 401 E. 104th St.

Bloomington's rich past comes alive during this living history festival depicting frontier life in the 1800s. Watch Dakota people interact with early European settlers. Costumed re-enactors will demonstrate the skills and crafts of two great cultures. For more information, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword "rendezvous." To purchase tickets, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8895. ♦

River Rendezvous needs volunteers!

- ♦ Tour guides for school children, Monday - Friday, September 16 - 20, from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 - ♦ Historic re-enactors.
 - ♦ Organizers and people to set up.
- Call Parks and Recreation, 952-563-8881, to volunteer.



Bloomington Art Center (BAC)

10206 Penn Avenue South
Phone 952-563-4777.

BAC Gallery
Players present

Agnes of God

When: Friday, Sept. 27 -
Saturday, Sept. 28
7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 29
7 p.m.
Where: BAC Gallery,
10206 Penn Ave. S.
Cost: \$5.
Register: Call 952-563-
4777.

14th Annual
Antique Show
and Sale

The BAC's Antique Show and Sale to be Saturday and Sunday, September 28 and 29, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Bloomington National Guard Training and Community Center, 3300 W. 98th St. Enjoy quality dealers, door prizes and free coffee. Admission of \$3.50 is good for both days.

Boutique of
Arts and Crafts

Hand-selected, unique items for sale include artwork, pottery and jewelry. Admission is free.

When: Thursday, Oct. 17
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 18
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 19
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Where: Bloomington Art
Center ♦

THREE!!! Galaxy Youth Centers

- ♦ Valley View Middle School, 8900 Portland Ave.
- ♦ Oak Grove Middle School, 1300 W. 106th St.
- ♦ Olson Middle School, 4551 W. 102nd St.

Galaxy Youth Centers provides a safe, nurturing environment for youth, grades 6 to 8. The centers are open Monday through Friday from 2:30 - 6 p.m. Activities include music, Foosball, Ping-Pong, billiards, video games, arts and crafts, service projects and sports. For more information, call 952-886-8848. ♦

Open House highlights Fire Prevention Week

The City's six fire stations will celebrate Fire Prevention Week with an open house on Saturday, October 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A variety of activities and demonstrations will be featured. Fire trucks, police squad cars and Public Works equipment will also be on display.

For information, call Roxy Markkanen at 952-881-4062. ♦

Visit your local fire station Saturday, October 12 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	
Station No.	Address
1	10 West 95th St.
2	10601 Xerxes Ave. So.
3	2050 East 86th St.
4	4201 West 84th St.
5	10540 Bush Lake Rd.
6	8601 Lakeview Rd.



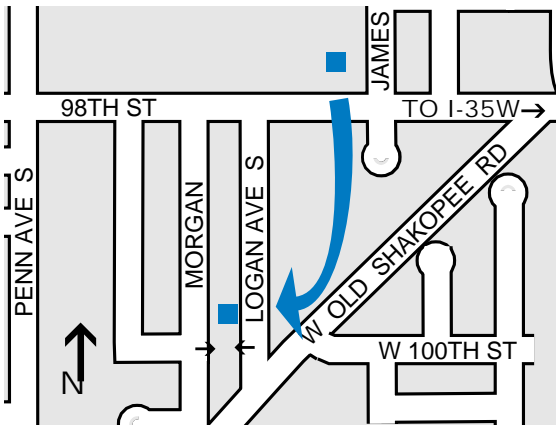
Kids, gather up your crayons and markers!

The Fire Department is sponsoring a poster contest. The theme for this year's event is "Team up for Fire Safety". When school starts, talk to your teacher or call Fire Station No. 1 at 952-881-4062 to receive a poster to color. Download the poster from the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords "poster contest." ♦



Motor Vehicle Office relocated

If you haven't used our facility lately, this reminder is for you. Last summer the Bloomington Motor Vehicle Office moved to its permanent location at 9930 Logan Avenue South. Office hours are Monday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Tuesday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 952-563-8719. ♦



Web site - new and improved!

New additions to the City of Bloomington's Web site include:

- ♦ **Motor Vehicle.** This area contains answers to frequently asked questions, hours, location and services. Download forms for bicycle licenses, duplicate plates or stickers, and duplicate title and registration cards.
- ♦ **Parks and Recreation.** This newly expanded area now features easy-to-follow links to programs, special events, parks and services. Download-

able registration forms are available whenever possible for customer convenience.

- ♦ **Commission highlights.** Highlights of actions by the City's boards and commissions are now on-line.
- ♦ **Fire Prevention.** Find information on electrical safety, recreational fires, and how to put together an emergency escape plan for your home.
- ♦ **Plats.** This section has maps of the recorded plats and registered land surveys for Bloomington properties.

- ♦ **Voting districts.** Find where you will be voting this year. This area has maps and addresses of the newly drawn voting precincts.
- ♦ **Zoning maps.** Every property in Bloomington is zoned for specific uses. Find what zoning district your property is in. Then go to the City Code section for more details.

Visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us. Locate these sections by using the bold text as your keywords. ♦

Happy birthday, Mall of America!

The Mall of America is celebrating a decade of success. With more than 43 million visitors annually, the Mall has helped Bloomington become one of America's top tourist destinations. Since the Mall's opening in August 1992, the Airport South area has seen a positive change with public infrastructure improvements and many new restaurants and hotels coming online. The revitalization of the area has helped to attract new businesses that ensure employment opportunities and increase the City's tax base. In addition, the Mall of America benefits the City of Bloomington's General Fund by an estimated \$900,000 annually. ♦

Toasting 10 years

	1992	2002
★ Percentage of space leased	71	99
★ Number of stores	330	520
★ Employees	10,000	12,000
★ Annual sales in millions	\$650	\$900

Photo credit: Bloomington Historical Society

Bloomington
Yesterday

McAfee Mill
1877-1905

The waters of Nine Mile Creek once powered a grist mill that supplied flour to the residents of Bloomington. The Bloomington Flour Mill and Dam (also known as McAfee Mill) were constructed in 1875 by William McAfee. The wooden three-story structure housed grinding stones and rollers moved by a turbine wheel. The mill was in use for nearly 30 years. The accompanying inset shows a flour sack from the mill. "Pure graham" is another term for whole-wheat flour. ♦